



PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 33752/US  
Express Mail Label No. EV 447 216 266 US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Herman Oskam et al.

Application No.: 10/737,061

Filed: 15 December 2003

For: RAISING AND LOWERING MECHANISM FOR  
BLINDS

Confirmation No.: 5240

Group Art Unit: 3634

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Mail Stop Missing Parts  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3) and § 1.98

Sir:

The Examiner is requested to consider the references noted on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 during examination of the above-identified patent application. These references are submitted for the Examiner's consideration and are submitted pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. In submitting these references, no representation is made or implied that the references are or are not material to the examination of the application. The Examiner is encouraged to make his or her own determination of materiality. Pursuant to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's July 11, 2003 waiver of the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i), only copies of the foreign references are provided.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)(i), any information disclosure statement filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 shall include a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent, publication or other information listed that is not in the English

language. The concise explanation may be either separate from the specification or incorporated therein.

German patent No. 16269, European patent application No. 0 554 212, and Swiss patent No. 581 257 are not in the English language. Therefore, in compliance with the rule, concise explanations of the relevance of these non-English references are as follows:

German patent No. 16269 describes a lifting mechanism for a venetian blind where the lift cords (b, b') are wound about spool A. The spool A has a conical shape at the place where the lift cords (b, b') are being wound about the spool, to prevent double windings. The conical shape ensured that each winding can slip to the thinner end of the spool by the lateral force of the next winding thereon (see figure 5).

European patent application No. 0 554 212 describes a winding spool (1) for a lifting mechanism for a venetian blind where the lift cords (11) are wound about spool (1). In order to get a smooth winding of the lift cords (11) and no overlap in cord windings, the spool has a smooth cord drum portion (8) having a diameter that is greater than the initial diameter of the winding drum (1) and a shoulder portion (9) ( see figures). The shoulder portion (9) ensures guiding the cord unto the drum portion (8) with the greater diameter. The shoulder portion (9) ensures the each winding is pushed over the larger diameter drum portion (8) towards the rest of the spool (1) with the smaller diameter.

Swiss patent No. 581 257 describes a roller blind for a heat reflecting foil. The blind can unroll from roller 11 under its own weight. While unrolling the foil the operating cord 27 is wound about a spool 19 of smaller diameter than blind roller 11. In order to prevent double windings of the operating cord 27, the spool has a conical end 21 of greater diameter. As the windings from on the conical end 21 they are pushed by each next winding towards the portion 19 of lesser diameter, thus preventing overlap of the windings. In order to raise the blind operating cord 27 is pulled downward and as the cord 27 unrolls from spool 19, 21, the blind roller 11 is driven to roll up the blind foil.

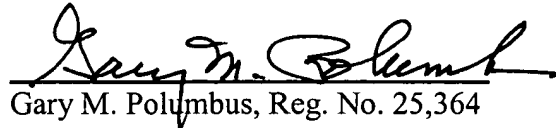
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), no fees are due with respect to this filing. However, if any fees are deemed necessary, such fees may be charged to Deposit Account No. 04-1415.

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If the examiner has any questions, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated: April 6, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



Gary M. Polumbus, Reg. No. 25,364  
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP  
370 Seventeenth Street, Suite 4700  
Denver, CO 80202-5647  
Tel.: (303) 629-3400  
Fax: (303) 629-3450

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Enclosures



FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (Modified) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT  (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 33752/US	APPLN. NO. 10/737,061
	APPLICANT: Herman Oskam et al.	
	FILING DATE 15 December 2003	GROUP 3634

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		3,181,595	04/1965	Pender	160	171	

## FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLISHED DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
		581 257	10/29/1976	CH				
		0 554 212	08/04/1993	EP				
		16269	02/15/1881	DE				
		986,529	03/17/1965	GB				
		2 333 314	07/21/1999	GB				

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.